Execution of 700 Death Row Prisoners Awaits President’s Approval

KABUL - Second Vice-President Ahmad Massoud on Wednesday said the execution of more than 700 death row prisoners awaited the approval of the president.

Dehdasht was speaking at the second joint sitting of Afghan and European Union officials to discuss human rights situation in Afghanistan in Kabul.

Dehdasht said more than 700 prisoners who had been sentenced to death by the country’s courts would be executed after the approval from the president. He said the approval of death warrants depended on the nature of the crimes the prisoners had committed and the president had already approved execution of some of death row prisoners.

Dehdasht said: “Death penalty is no doubt a heavier punishment that claims lives,” he said, but added it had been decided to reduce the number of crimes punishable by death by amending the country’s penal code.

He said it had been recommended to convert the death penalty in some cases into life imprisonment. He said death sentences were awarded under specific circumstances.

Price: 15/-Afs

Condolence Meeting for Mansour

KUNDUZ CITY - The Taliban released eight more passengers in northern Kunduz province, keeping 10 others in their captivity, an official said on Wednesday.

Acting provincial police chief, Col. Massumi Hashimi, told Pajhwok Afghan News the overnight releases were made possible by tribal elders’ mediation. He promised the remaining captives would be released soon.

Earlier, the insurgents released several vehicles in Aqshang Bagh locality and seized 220 passengers. Some of them were killed yesterday while many were set free. Hidayatullah Fayzani, administrative chief for Alabad district, had said the insurgents had established a “death unit”.

Due in Islamabad, Karzai Underlines Cordial Af-Pak Relations

KABUL - Ex-president Hamid Karzai would visit Islamabad next month in response to an invitation from Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, a news report said on Wednesday. He expressed his gratitude to Sharif and prayed for his early recovery from a recent heart surgery in London.

“I’ve received an invitation from Sharif a couple of days back.” According to The Express Tribune, Karzai underlined the need for cordial ties between Kabul and Islamabad. He also thanked the Pakistani government and people for extending “tremendous hospitality” to millions of Afghan.

Condolence Meeting for Mansour Attacked in Wardak: Witness

KABUL - The Ministry of Interior (MoI) on Wednesday said a notorious Taliban commander was among six, others killed during a raid by Afghan Special Forces Unit in central Maidan Wardak province.

A MoI statement said the Taliban commander, Toraydad, was killed along with his five comrades on Tuesday in Maidan Shar, the provincial capital, and Ibrahimkhel village of Mirza area in Nuh district.

The statement said Toraydad had been involved in a series of terrorist attacks, kidnappings and destruction of telecom towers.

But a resident of Ibrahimkholi area, Amirullah, who witnessed the incident, said that Afghan security forces yesterday attacked a condole-

em meeting for the slain Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour.

They started at about 1 pm and lasted until 1:30 pm. The eyewitness denied Taliban command- ers’ claim that they were killed.

He said one Taliban fighter and one civilian were killed and those others were wounded during the firefight.

The Taliban have so far said nothing in this regard. (Pajhwok)